

Paternity Benefit

Paternity Benefit is a payment which was brought into law under the Paternity Leave and Benefit Act 2016. It is available to parents from the 1 September 2016 and to those who are employed or self-employed, who are on Paternity Leave and are covered by PRSI. It is available for any child born or adopted on, or after, the 1 September 2016.

Paternity Benefit is a weekly payment of €240, payable for two weeks to enable parents to take time off work. The two weeks must be taken consecutively. Paternity Benefit must begin within 26 weeks of the estimated due date/placement and must end no later than 28 weeks from this date.

You must give 4 weeks notice to your employer, 12 if you are self-employed, in order to receive Paternity Benefit and have proof of your baby's mother's expected due date. A certificate from the GP or hospital may suffice. Parents who are adopting are also entitled to this scheme and must also provide the relevant notice and proof of date of placement.

Other relevant information

- Paternity Benefit can be paid to the spouse, cohabitant or civil partner of the mother, irrespective of gender
- Paternity Benefit can be paid to the father of the child if he is not married to the mother nor living with her.
- Paternity Benefit is a taxable income

Employment and Paternity Benefit

To be entitled to Paternity Benefit you must have a certain amount of PRSI stamps. Generally speaking if you have been in employment for a period of at least 9 months in the last 12 months then you may qualify. More details of how to qualify on the basis of meeting the PRSI criteria are below:

- At least 39 weeks PRSI paid in the 12 month period before the first day you take your Paternity Leave.
- Or at least 39 weeks PRSI paid since first starting work and at least 39 weeks PRSI paid or credited in the relevant tax year or in the tax year immediately following the relevant tax year.
- Or at least 26 weeks PRSI paid in the relevant tax year and at least 26 weeks PRSI paid in the tax year immediately before the relevant tax year.
- If you are self-employed before taking up paid employment you can use your class S contributions in order to qualify for Paternity Benefit.

Your employer must complete a PB2 form employer certificate for Paternity Benefit to certify that you are entitled to the leave.

Self-employment and Paternity Benefit

If you are self-employed and looking to seek Paternity Benefit you must:

- Be in insurable employment and have 52 weeks PRSI contributions paid at class S for the relevant tax year.
- Or have 52 weeks PRSI contributions paid at class S for the tax year immediately before the relevant tax year.
- Or have 52 weeks PRSI contributions paid at class S, paid immediately following the relevant tax year.

A doctor must certify your baby's due date or the baby's actual date of birth. This is required to show that you are entitled to Paternity Benefit. You are required to fill out a PB3 form: medical certificate for Paternity Benefit

Paternity Benefit and other social welfare payments

You may be entitled to half rate Paternity Benefit if you are on one of the following:

- One Parent Family Payment
- Widowers or Surviving Civil Partner's (contributory) Pension
- Widowers or Surviving Civil Partner's (non-contributory) Pension
- Death Benefit
- You may be entitled to half rate Carer's Allowance if you are providing full time care and attention for another person

Certified leave

All employees must have their leave certified by their employer, or if you are self-employed you can self certify.

Applying for Paternity Benefit

You can apply for Paternity Benefit online at mywelfare.ie and attach supporting documentation to your form. You must have a Public Service Card to apply for Paternity Benefit.

You will not be paid Paternity Benefit for any periods spent outside the EU. If you are an EU citizen, you can get Paternity Benefit for any period of your Paternity Leave spent in another EU country. If you are not an EU citizen, you will only get Paternity Benefit for time spent in Ireland.

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Additional information

For further information on Paternity Benefit, please click [here](#)

This link also includes information should a baby be born prematurely or is hospitalised, as well as in circumstances of miscarriage or stillbirth.

The address for the Paternity Benefit Section is:

Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP)
McCarter's Road
Buncrana
Donegal

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